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HOUSE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The members of the House of Representatives of the State of Illinois are pleased to congratulate the Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church of Waukegan and Pastor Arthur J. Gass Sr. on the occasion of their 17th anniversary; and

WHEREAS, Pastor Arthur J. Gass Sr. was born on October 18, 1951 in Sylvester, Georgia to Mr. Ulysses & Mrs. Tannie L. Gass Sr.; he has been married to Anne V. Gass for 26 years, and they have 2 children, CaRita Anne Gass and Arthur James Gass Jr.; and

WHEREAS, Pastor Gass became a member of the Hopewell Baptist Church as a young child; his church ministry experiences include serving as Junior Usher, Church Clerk, Youth Director, a Junior Deacon, a Deacon, the Chairman of the Board of Deacons, an Associate Minister, Assistant to the Pastor, and Pastor; he accepted his calling into ministry on November 23, 1978, was licensed on December 10, 1978, and was ordained on May 4, 1981; and

WHEREAS, He served as Pastor of the New St. Stephen Baptist Church in Albany, Georgia and as Associate Minister of the Christian Valley Baptist Church; as a religious leader, he organized the Christian Ministers Fellowship Organization and served as president of the organization in 1986; and

WHEREAS, Pastor Gass has served as Pastor of Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church of Waukegan since June of 1987; under his leadership, the church has grown to over 300 members, and the new church was built and dedicated in March of 1993; under his guidance, the church has purchased real estate consisting of two residential houses, and has added annually to the church's income, and converted vacant land to accommodate approximately 28 additional parking spaces for the church; and

1           WHEREAS, Pastor Gass is more than a pastor; he also serves  
2 as a teacher, community leader, and scholar; he is a past  
3 president of the North Shore Baptist Ministers Alliance,  
4 secretary of the North Shore Pastor's Conference, the first  
5 Vice-Moderator of the New Era District Association, and the  
6 former Financial Secretary/Budget Director and 3rd Vice  
7 President of Finance for the Young Pastors & Ministers  
8 Department of the National Baptist Convention, U.S.A., Inc.; he  
9 is an accountant for The People's Voice Newspaper, a member of  
10 the NAACP, a member of the Board of Directors of Daisy's  
11 Resource Center, a former member of the Board of Directors of  
12 Lake County Community Action Project (CAP), and a former member  
13 of the Board of Directors of Neighborhood Housing Service; and

14           WHEREAS, During his tenure as president of the North Shore  
15 Baptist Ministers Alliance, he was instrumental in the renaming  
16 of Utica Street to Dr. Martin Luther King Drive, effective in  
17 January of 2002; he organized the Financial Planning  
18 Conference, Christian Family Conference, and the Singles and  
19 Teen Conferences at Mt. Zion that are aimed at strengthening  
20 the family financially and teaching family values from a  
21 Biblical perspective; he is credited with helping three church  
22 families in purchasing new residential homes and four sister  
23 churches in purchasing new edifices; and

24           WHEREAS, In 1986, Pastor Gass was presented with the  
25 Leadership Award from the Christian Ministers Fellowship  
26 Organization; in 1998, he was presented with the Publisher's  
27 Award - Most Influential African-Americans of Lake County; from  
28 1975 to 2001, he received several Outstanding Service Awards,  
29 both from his employer and the community; and in 2004, the City  
30 of Waukegan dedicated and named Wainlow Avenue in his honor in  
31 recognition of his religious and community activities;  
32 therefore, be it

1           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
2           NINETY-THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we  
3           congratulate the Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church of Waukegan  
4           and Pastor Arthur J. Gass Sr. on the occasion of their 17th  
5           anniversary; and be it further

6           RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be  
7           presented to the Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church of Waukegan  
8           and to Pastor Arthur J. Gass Sr. as an expression of our  
9           esteem.